



CITY COUNCIL AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM  
City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia OR 97064

 **ORIGINAL**

**Mission Statement**

The City of Vernonia pledges to be an ethical and responsive government using community collaboration to foster leadership and a vision for civic improvement while providing a safe, peaceful, economically viable community.

**1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Council President Tierney**

Meeting was called to Order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Tierney at 7:02pm

**2. Additions or Removal of Agenda Items**

Additions-C. 1. Letter from Aaron Miller New Business A. Vernonia Senior Center – Vernonia Cares Weed Street Improvements. Motion to approve agenda made by Councilor McNair. Motion was seconded by Councilor Seager. Motion carried.

**3. Public Hearing – Tobacco Free Parks**

Council President Tierney called the Public Hearing to Order at 7:05pm. Councilor Tierney read through the rules and order of the Public Hearing.

**a. Call Hearing to Order**

**b. Order of Hearing**

**c. Exparte**

Councilor Tierney asked if any Councilor needed to declare Exparte? Councilor Tierney declared that she had helped to craft the ordinance.

**d. Conflict of Interest**

Councilor Tierney asked if any Councilor has a conflict of interest. No.

**e. Testimony in Favor**

**Brittanie Roberts** –Vernonia citizen– Stated she is in favor of the ordinance, she has had experience with cigarette users and litter as a past lifeguard. She would like Council to pass the ordinance.

**Tobie Finzel**- Keasey Road resident - Is a reformed smoker, she walks the lake with other senior ladies on Wednesdays and much of the litter they pick up is cigarettes butts. She would like to see the ordinance passed or a small designated area.

**Mark Brown**- Vernonia resident- He is in favor, the litter, and the influence of children who may be around smokers is not good.

**f. Testimony in Opposition**

**Donald Normand**-Vernonia resident- Smoking has been limited in the bars and now the smokers are on the street where children walk through it. Council should put designated areas in to keep it away from kids.

**Bob Perry**-Vernonia resident- He is a pipe smoker, and pays for the parks, he enjoys walking around the lake and smoking his pipe. I hate to see the right to do that go away.

**g. Neutral Testimony**

**Ashley Baggett**- St. Helens resident- She helped draft the ordinance. She outlined facts around smoking. Smoking litter is the #1 litter, non-biodegradable, toxic to

children and animals if ingested. Signage accounts for 75% of enforcement. Cigarette use is on the decrease, but inhalant delivery devices has doubled.

**h. Final Call for Testimony**

No testimony.

**i. Close the Hearing**

Councilor Tierney closed the Public Hearing at 7:12 pm

**4. Councilor Committee Meeting Reports**

Hult-No Seager-No McNair-No Tierney-No Parrow-Absent

**5. Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation**

Susan Wagner- Read into the record, thanking Code Enforcement Officer for work.

Tony Schrader-1374 Knott Street- Mr. Schrader read a letter written by himself. The letter addresses his concerns with the Nickerson subdivision, his idea of what went wrong and data and documents he has found. He stated that the dismissal of the City Administrator concerns him because he feels that the dismissal has something to do with this issue. (Letter in official file).

Georgeanna Seager-1<sup>st</sup> Avenue- The restrooms at the Lake are in bad repair. The pit toilet at the Vernonia Lake is full. The restrooms at the Lake need to have some attention.

**6. Consent Agenda for Acceptance**

A. Weekly Departmental Updates from July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda for acceptance by Councilor Seager.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

**8. Consent Agenda for Approval**

A. City Council Meeting Minutes for August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda for approval by Councilor Seager.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

B. City Council Special Mtg. Minutes for August 5<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda for approval by Councilor Seager.

Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

**9. Unfinished Business**

A. Council Tablet Discussion

City Recorder Mitchell discussed that this was brought up in budget, staff is asking for Council determination of spending for the tablets or not. Councilor McNair asked how much the meeting documents cost to produce. City Recorder stated approximately 40.00 a meeting. Councilor Tierney stated that other City's found a significant savings. Motion was made to move funds from Contingency and purchase 5 surface tablets now for City Councilor meetings by Councilor McNair. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion carried.

B. Downtown Trees

City Recorder Mitchell asked to have this issue come back to them regarding the removal of downtown trees. Staff contacted Chip Bubl at the Extension Office, staff used the Portland Street Trees Alliance website, and determined the three trees to be entertained the Red Chokecherry, Japanese Tree Lilac, Zelkova City Sprite. Staff is proposing mixing the three types, using variety. Tree test did not happen at the VCLC tree, Public Works did not have the time to test the removal. Councilor McNair says take them out and be done with it. Councilor Seager thinks we should move forward with the removal of the trees. He would like to have staff consult with the Downtown Business of their opinion. Councilor Hult believes the trees beautifies the downtown, she agrees with the need to consult the downtown businesses. She would like to minimize the cost, using in ground spots. Councilor McNair would like the trees

removed prior to needing to trim them again. Councilor Tierney would like to see some trees back in. Council would like staff to come back after the test and report back.

**C. Water Curtailment Levels of Concern Discussion**

Councilor Tierney stated that Mayor Parrow and herself discussed bringing this back on the agenda at the concern of citizens who are needing to water their gardens. Deleting garden and vegetables from the restriction and adding direct hand watering of food producing plants. Councilor Tierney is less for the change now than she was when she proposed this change. Discussion continued on uses, how the water right works. Councilor McNair stated that gardeners will not overwater their gardens. Councilor Tierney would like more restrictive language.

1. Request Letter from Vernonia 47J- School District Superintendent Aaron Miller asked for the right to water the football field to keep players from harm. Mr. Miller stated that the school has a water right and they would like to water. Much discussion was held. The Council does not feel that they have jurisdiction over the school if the school has their own water rights.

2. City Recorder stated to Mr. Schrader that the Council has not dropped the ball and staff will still be moving forward with the investigation.

**10. New Business**

A. Senior Center –Vernonia Cares request to forestall Weed Avenue improvements

Casey Mitchell- CAT- Requested that the Senior Center/ Vernonia Cares Foodbank relocation to Rose Avenue, is allowed to submit in the CDBG application that the City will allow the groups to forestall the improvements of Weed Avenue for a later date. Funding security will not be secured prior to the application deadline. Council directs City Planner to review and recommend the groups to forestall of Weed Avenue improvements until funding becomes available by Councilor McNair. Motion seconded by Councilor Seager. Motion carried.

**11. Business from Departments**

A. Police Department – Chief Michael Conner

Jamboree weekend only 3 arrests, there was 2 burglaries. Hiring of the police officer has not happened still in background phase.

**12. Ordinances/Resolutions**

Ordinance 906 – Tobacco Free Parks

Motion to adopt Ordinance 906 made by Councilor McNair. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hult. Motion died. Tierney, Hult 2 ayes. McNair, Seager 2 nays. It is requested that Ordinance 906 come back to Council at their September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by Councilor Tierney.

Ordinance 907 – Water Curtailment Amendment

Motion to adopt Ordinance 907 made by Councilor Seager. Motion was seconded by Councilor McNair. Motion carried.

City Recorder read the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Ordinance 907 by title only.

City Recorder read the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the Ordinance 907 by title only.

**13. Correspondence**

Request to Water Football Field –Aaron Miller

**14. Items from Mayor, Councilors, City Administrator**

Hult-No Seager-Recognizes the good job the Police Department is doing with the Nuisance Abatement. McNair- A group of us walked the site of the WWTP and unfortunately we are going to have to remove a large percentage of the Maple trees along Webb Way. The barrow site and the trail do have a buffer in between them.

### 15. Action Items Summary – Assistant to the City Administrator

- Directed staff to move money from Contingency to office Supplies and purchase the Council tablets.
- Directed the City Planner to review and write recommendation for the Senior and Vernonia Cares to forestall improvements on Weed Avenue until the funding becomes available.
- Direct staff to remove 2 trees as a test from the Bridge Street trees, staff if come back to Council once that test is done.
- Directed staff to bring Ordinance 906 back on the agenda for the Council meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Directed staff to have pit toilet at the Lake pumped and restrooms at the Lake maintained.
- Directed staff to present the General Release & Severance Agreement to Mr. Mammone.

### 16. Recess to Executive Session as per ORS 192.660(2)(f)

*The City Council will now meet in Executive Session for the purpose of*

*(f) Exempt Public Records*

*The executive session is held pursuant to ORS 192.660(2), which allows the Council to meet in executive session for the purpose stated.*

*Representatives of the news media and designated staff are allowed to attend the executive session.\* All other members of the audience are asked to leave the room. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the session as previously announced. No decision may be made in executive session. At the end of the executive session, we will return to open session and welcome the audience back into the room.*

*\*Council may choose to allow other specified persons to attend.*

*"A member of the news media or designee may not disclose any information from executive session, may not tape record, digitally record, and/ or video record any information to decrease the likelihood that information discussed in the executive session will be inadvertently disclosed."*

### 17. Return to Open Session / Final Action

Council returned to open session and Councilor Tierney stated Council consensus was to present the General Release & Severance Agreement to Mr. Mammone.

### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

These minutes were approved at the regular City Council meeting September 8, 2015.

  
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Randall J. Parrow, Mayor

Attest:   
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Josette M. Mitchell, City Recorder

9.8.15  
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Date

9/8/15  
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Date